Discussion on development and promotion of tourism in N.E.

4902. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whather it is a fact that recently a meeting of the North-Eastern States Chief Ministers Was convened by Government to discuss the development and promotion of tourism in North-East;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what decision were taken in the meeting; and

(d) how Government propose to implement the decisions and develop tourism in the North-Eastern parts of the country

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The main issues discussed during the meeting were to augment tourist infrastructure in the identified tourist centres and augmentation of aviation facilities in North-Eastern Region.

(d) The States of North Eastern-Region have been asked to field project proposals alongwith detailed estimates for extending financial assistance.

MRTP enquiry against ATO

4903. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minuter of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the MRTP is holding enquiries against ATOs; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Director General of Investigation and Registration of Monopoly and Restrictive Trade Practice (MRTP) Commission bad initiated suo moto investigation under the MRTP Act to find out whether there is any agreement or understanding among various Air Taxi Operators to have uniform fare structure as reported in some news papers.

Foreign Travel Agencies in India

4904. SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several foreign travel agencies or travel services wings of foreign banks are working in India, and if so, the names of such agencies and the countries of their origin; and

(b) what are the services being forwarded by the above agencies, particularly by American Express ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. M/s. Travel Related Services of American Express Bank Limited is on the approved list of Department of Tourism as a recognised Travel Agency.

(b) The Department of Tourism has a voluntary scheme of granting recognition to Travel Agents and Tour Operators on their satisfying certain norms with a view to ensuring efficient and reliable service to tourists. A Travel Agency is one which makes arrangements of tickets for travel by Air, rail, ship, passport, visa etc. It may also Handle inbound tours and arrange accommodation, tours, entertainment and other tourism related services.

Agreement with Lufthansa Airlines

4905. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has entered into an agreement with Lufthansa Airlines tot an unprecedented increase of 67 per cent in Lufthansa capacity to India;

(to) if so, what are the reasons for substantially increasing Lufthansa's capacity for their flights to India;

(c) what is the overall estimated loss in passenger traffic and foreign exchange, likely to be suffered by Air India as a result thereof; and

(d) whether any increase in the capacity is also proposed to be given by Government to other foreign airlines operating in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) A proposal for enhancing capacity between Germ/any and India is under negotiation between the two Governments.

(d) The capacity increase for operations of foreign airlines to and from India is considered on the basis of reciprocity, keeping in view the traffic requirements.

Phasing out of old aircrafts by IA

4906. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines have chalked out some programme to phase out old aircrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with background;

(c) whether large number of old aircrafts are to be replaced in phases;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount involved in this activity;

(e) whether such replacement would incur any additional burden on air-passengers;

(f) whether Government propose to ask Air India to undertake similar activity; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) With a view to providing a Policy framework for retirement of old aircrafts and induction of new aircraft into the fleet of Indian Airlines, Government have approved an indicative fleet renewal plan of Indian Airlines, which envisages phasing out of more than 20 years old aircraft as a first step. Aircraft between the age of 16 to 19 years are to be phased out during 1995—2000 and those between 14 to 16 years beyond 2000. Amount involved in fleet renewal would be known at the time of firming of investment proposal.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) In the case of Air lndia, Government have approved roll over plan, whereby Air India will phase out its aircraft after 10 years of age subject to availability of suitable aircraft and necessary resources.

Tourist traffic in Rajasthan

4907. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether government are aware that touris-traffic to Rajasthan has increased manifold but air services presently available there connect only three cities vis. Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur, which are far too short of requirements;

(b) whether it is a fact that National Airports Authority (NAA) has agreed to extend the Jaipur runway; construct new terminal building and to create facilities for landing of airbus in 3 phases in respect of Jaipur Airport and also taken possession of 60 acres of land therefor;

(c) if so, whether NAA propose to extend airstrip of Jaipur upto 7500 feet under the first phase during 1994-95, alongwith details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Central Government also propose to extend the air network in Rajasthan to Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Kota-keeping in view the heavy tourist-traffic during the tourist season of Rajasthan in 1995-96 ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) As per available information tourist traffic in Rajasthan has increased from approx. 41.52 lakhs in 1990 to 58.10 lakhs in 1992.

(b) and (c) National Airports Authority proposes to take up the work of extension of the runway at Jaipur airport to 7500 feet during the current year to make it suitable for operation of Airbus A-320 aircraft. 60 acres of land has been acquired for this purpose. There is no proposal for construction of a new terminal building. However, the existing terminal building is proposed to be extended.

(d) Indian Airlines have no plans, at present, to introduce services to these stations due to operational consttraints.